

**WE CLAIM:**

1. A method of making chew chips comprising:

providing a clean hide;

5           infusing the clean hide with an ingredient including at least one of a food  
color and food flavor to form an infused hide;

cutting the hide to make hide pieces; and

drying the hide pieces to make chew chips.

10           2. The method of claim 1 wherein the hide pieces are made with a  
plurality of internal cuts.

15           3. The method of claim 1 wherein the hide pieces are made with a  
plurality of internal cuts arranged in a two-dimensional array selected to improve  
the dental characteristics of the chip.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising forming the chew chips with  
wavy cross-shape.

20           5. The method of claim 1 wherein said hide is infused with a mixture  
including a food flavor and a food color.

6. A method of making dental chew chips comprising:

preparing a hide by removing from the hide various undesirable materials  
to make a clean hide;

infusing the clean hide with at least one of a flavor and color to make an  
5 infused hide;

cutting the infused hide into hide pieces; and  
drying the hide pieces to make chew chips.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising providing a plurality of  
10 internal cuts in said hide pieces.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said internal cuts extend through the  
hide pieces.

15 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said internal cuts are arranged in a  
two-dimensional array.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein said cuts have a predetermined  
shape including one of a star-shape, a cross-shape, a plus-shape and a U-  
20 shape.

11. The method of claim 6 wherein said hide is cut before infusion.

12. A dental chew chip comprising:

a body having a predetermined shape coated with one of a flavor and a color and formed with a plurality of cuts arranged to improve the dental characteristics of the chip.

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13. The dental chew chip of claim 12 wherein said plurality of cuts are arranged in a two-dimensional array.

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14. The dental chew chip of claim 12 wherein said body has a wavy cross-section.

15. The dental chew chip of claim 12 wherein said body has a geometric shape.

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16. The dental chew chip of claim 12 wherein said body has a length in the range of between about 90 and 200 mm and a width in the range of between about 60 and 100 mm.